

Testimony in Support of **S.B. 991, An Act Concerning
Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers**

Human Services Committee

Jose G. Rivera

February 21, 2023

Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Gilchrest, and
esteemed members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Jose G. Rivera and I live in the town of New Britain, Connecticut. I stand in support of S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers. I am a Case Manager at Ministerial Health Fellowship which our mission is to service the Bipoc and LatinX communities within the state of Connecticut connecting them to resources unknown to them but also advocating for said population in matters such as this one.

Currently, Connecticut's Medicaid program does not reimburse Community Health Worker (CHW) services or incentivize health care providers to work with CHWs. Community health workers are an effective way to address inequities and promote health, particularly for low-income households served by Medicaid.

This is an important matter to me because the people I encounter every week out in the field are in need. They need us to be their voices who advocate for them. They need us to be their navigators in making appointments etc.. Our people are kept in the dark from many programs available to them and the only way they find out about them most of the time is through a CHW. In doing this work I keep this quote close to my heart written by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; "Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in." Let us make the right decision here for the betterment of our communities and in turn our Nation.

Medicaid reimbursement for community health workers should:

- Center community and CHW voices in all stages of design and implementation
- Reimburse at rates high enough to employ CHWs at a livable wage and cover the costs of supervision, billing, and routine training
- Cover a comprehensive list of CHW services

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers.

Sincerely,
Jose G. Rivera